



Press Release

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On: Vegetable Chemical Use Survey

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USDA-NASS to Conduct Vegetable Chemical Use Survey

AUSTIN . . . The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) will conduct the Vegetable Chemical Use Survey this fall to gather reliable, objective information about pesticides, and fertilizer used on vegetable crops. Information gathered from growers in 12 states, including Texas, will be used to set state and national estimates on the use of pesticides on 29 vegetable crops.

A local interviewer from NASS will contact vegetable growers in October to collect information on vegetable crops such as pesticides and fertilizers used, acres treated and rates applied.

"Because of the challenges and unique issues facing today's vegetable growers, participation in this survey is vital. Only by contacting growers directly can NASS compile and publish the most reliable statistics possible," said David S. Abbe, director of the USDA-NASS Texas Field Office.

"These statistics will give growers an opportunity to tell how they use agricultural chemicals responsibly to produce a safe and abundant food supply for the United States and the world," Abbe added. "Survey results are official USDA data that help to clarify the facts about chemical use in agriculture. This information is used in the decision-making process for the Food Quality Protection Act, which has an impact on pesticide registrations, re-registrations and product alternatives."

USDA-NASS closely guards the confidentiality of all survey responses. "Data collected from individual operations are combined with other responses to provide the needed data. We will not disclose any data about an individual operation," Abbe said.

NASS will publish the *Vegetable Chemical Usage* report with state and national estimates of vegetable growers' use of agricultural chemicals in July 2007. For a copy of this report or to obtain other agricultural statistics visit the NASS Web site: www.nass.usda.gov or contact the Texas Field Office at 800-626-3142.

Find agricultural statistics for your county, state and the nation at www.nass.usda.gov.